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Donovan Hails Ransoming of 8,400 Cubans

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AP—America's exchange of baby food and drugs for the release of the Bay of Pigs invasion prisoners has done more good in Cuba than might be realized by 50 daily Voice of America broadcasts to the island, says New York Attorney James B. Donovan.

"We have proven to the Cuban people that we are moral and we have stuck by our obligation to the captured men," says the man who arranged for the exchange, even though there were protests concerning the trade.

By next week, Mr. Donovan told the 4th Circuit Judicial Conference last night, more than 8,400 Cubans will have been returned to freedom in the United States through negotiations which had the blessing of Protestant, Jewish and Catholic leaders in this country.

Mr. Donovan said he became involved in the exchange when parents of some of the prisoners came to his office with an appeal for these youngsters, "many of whom were under 20 and who had been trained by the United States, sent by the United States to invade Cuba, and abandoned by the United States without ammunition with which to continue the fight."

President Kennedy has taken full responsibility for the failure of the invasion, and his brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, has said the "plan that was used was cleared by the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) and the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Mr. Donovan added.

Americans are known to have trained Cuban invaders, and four American volunteer pilots were killed while flying combat missions.

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